

REMARKS


This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 9, 2005. Claims 20 to 23 and 109 to 112 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 19 and 24 to 48 having been cancelled. Claims 20, 22, 109 and 111 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 20 to 23 and 109 to 112.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 14, 24 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 8, 10 to 13, 24 to 27 and 29 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,974,236 (Sherman); Claims 4, 5, 9, 14 to 19, 28, 33 to 36 and 46 to 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sherman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,287 (Diepstraten); and Claims 37 to 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sherman and Diepstraten in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,609 (Nago). Claims 1 to 19 and 24 to 48 have been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance. In particular, a divisional application is being prepared, to pursue the rejected subject matter. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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